AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An analytical apparatus ~~for automatically carrying out~~ arranged to carry out automatically a plurality of analytical steps during thermal desorption of a sample, which apparatus includes:

a releasing device for releasing a sample from a sampling tube to provide a released sample;

~~a device~~an analyser for analysing a first portion of the released sample;

a ~~collecting~~ re-collection device for collecting a second portion of the released sample;

a re-release device for re-releasing the collected said second portion of the released sample that has been collected to provide a re-released portion of the sample for archiving or further analysis, wherein the second portion of the sample released is re-collected in one of the following re-collection devices: a) either in the sampling tube or b) a single collecting tube or trap which is used to collect, in turn, the second portion of the sample released from each of a plurality of sampling tubes or c) respective collecting tubes are used to collect the second portion of each of the released samples, with each of said respective collecting tubes being selected automatically from a plurality of tubes stored either in the same autosampler as the sampling tubes or in a further autosampler.;

~~and~~

~~a device for analysing the re-released portion of the sample.~~

2. (Previously presented) The analytical apparatus according to claim 1, which is arranged to select the sampling tube from a plurality of tubes stored in an autosampler.

3. (Previously presented) The analytical apparatus according to claim 1, which is arranged to provide a comparison of the results from each of the two analysis stages.

4-7. Cancelled

8. (Currently Amended) The analytical apparatus according to claim ~~2~~1, wherein a portion of the re-released sample is analysed, a second portion of the re-released sample being re-collected, either in the sampling tube or in a further respective re-collecting tube, each of said respective re-collecting tubes being selected automatically from a plurality of tubes stored either in the same autosampler as the sampling tubes, collecting tubes, or both or in a further autosampler.

9. (Previously presented) The analytical apparatus according to claim 1, arranged such that the sample released from the sampling tube is buffered, by collecting the sample in an intermediate tube or trap, prior to the steps of analysing the first portion of the released sample and collecting the second portion of the released sample.

10. (Previously Presented) The analytical apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the second portion of the sample released from the sampling tube, or subsequently collected and re-released, are buffered, by collecting the sample in an intermediate tube or trap, prior to its collection and re-collection.

11-21. Cancelled

22. (New) An analytical apparatus comprising means arranged to carry out automatically a plurality of analytical steps during thermal desorption of a sample for each of a plurality of sampling tubes stored in an autosampler, the apparatus comprising:
a tube selector for selecting a first sampling tube from said plurality of tubes;

a release device for releasing a sample from the first sampling tube to provide a released sample;

an analyser for analysing a first portion of the released sample; and

a re-collection device for collecting a second portion of the released sample, either in a) each respective first sampling tube or in b) a collecting tube selected automatically from said plurality of sampling tubes, with which the first sampling tube is replaced by the collecting tube within the autosampler.

23. (New) An apparatus according to claim 22, which further comprises means for automatically carrying out the further steps of releasing the sample collected in either the sampling tube or the collecting tube and analysing the released sample.

24. (New) An apparatus according to claim 22, which is arranged to analyse only a first portion of the sample released by said re-collection device, a second portion of the released sample being re-collected, either in the sampling tube, the collecting tube or in a re-collecting tube selected from said plurality of tubes, with which either the sampling tube or the collecting tube is replaced in the autosampler.

25. (New) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein for each of the plurality of sampling tubes, the sample released from the sampling tube is buffered, by collecting the sample in a tube or trap, prior to the steps of analysing the first portion of the released sample and collecting the second portion of the released sample.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the second portion of the sample released from the sampling tube or by the collecting means may be buffered, by collecting the sample in a tube or trap, prior to its collection/re-collection.